

Message Text

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10

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 OMB-01 SS-14

NSC-10 STR-08 RSR-01 /084 W
----- 025741

R 262220 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3588

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1049

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, CS

SUBJECT: TAX ON FOREIGN SOFT DRINK BOTTLERS

REF: SAN JOSE 1019

1. COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT LAW AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH
FINANCE MINISTER ALPIZAR MORNING MARCH 26. ALPIZAR
REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE TAX AND EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT THE ARTICLE WOULD BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE DISCRIM-
INATORY ASPECTS. EMBOFF LATER MENTIONED CALL ON
ALPIZAR TO COCA- COLA MANAGER HUEBNER WHO HAS SEEN
BOTH ALPIZAR AND LABOR MINISTER MORALES ABOUT PROBLEM.
HUEBNER AGREED IT WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR
EMBASSY TO MAKE APPROACH TO MORALES SIMILAR TO
ONE MADE TO ALPIZAR, BUT THOUGHT BOTTLERS MIGHT WISH TO
REGISTER A FORMAL COMPLAINT WITH MORALES ON THEIR OWN.

2. BEGIN FYI. ALPIZAR INTENDS TO TAKE UP QUESTION
AT THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (PRESIDENT' S CABINET)
MARCH 27. HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED
THAT THE SORT OF DISCRIMINATION CONTAINED IN THE
COOPERATIVES LAW WOULD BE INJURIOUS TO GOCR- US
RELATIONS ON OTHER TRADE MATTERS AND THAT THE IRRITANT
NATURE OF THE MEASURE CLEARLY OUTWEIGHED THE SMALL
TAX GAIN THAT WOULD BE REALIZED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD
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ALREADY SENT A MEMORANDUM TO MORALES (WHOM HE
DESCRIBED AS WELL INTENTIONED BUT INEXPERIENCED)
AND THAT HE KNEW MORALES WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.
HE SEEMED TO FEEL THE PROBLEM NOW WAS ONE OF BRINGING
MORALES AROUND TO AGREEING TO CHANGING THE OFFENDING
ARTICLE WHILE AVOIDING A HEAD- ON CLASH WITH HIM.
WE THINK FOR THE TIME BEING IT IS ADVISABLE TO LEAVE
THINGS IN ALPIZAR' S HANDS AND NOT MAKE ADDITIONAL
REPRESENTATIONS. END FYI.
VAKY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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